

Waterford School
Second & Janney Sts.
Waterford
Loudoun County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-1014

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WATERFORD SCHOOL

HABS No. VA-1014

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Location: Second Street at Janney Street
Waterford
Loudoun County
Virginia

Owner: Waterford Foundation, Inc.

Use: Vacant. The Waterford Foundation allows groups to use the building, and a quilting group occasionally meets there.

Architectural Commentary

Character: Unusual excellence because of the building's eight windows, wood walls and ceiling, and slate blackboard. These features are not found in most one-room schools for black children prior to the early 1920's.

Condition: Very fine. The building was insured for five hundred dollars in February, 1926. Most one-room schoolhouses in Loudoun County were insured for that amount. By 1932 insurance coverage was dropped because of uncertainty as to who owned the property. (See "Minutes [Loudoun County] School Board July 31, 1919 to June 9, 1931," p. 265; "Minute Book No. 1, County School Board of Loudoun County, July, 1931 to June, 1938," pp. 46-47).

Foundation: Rough stonework, with no distinct pattern in the laying of the stones. The stone has been repointed with cement, and with repointing, much original stone has been covered.

Exterior Walls, Finish and Color: German Siding, five inches side with the break three inches from the lower edge. This type of German Siding is uncommon in Piedmont Virginia. The siding has been painted white from its earliest years. In Waterford, people were not 'too proud to whitewash and too poor to paint.'

Structural System: Not visible

Windows and Blinds: Wooden windows, double-hung, with six-over-six light sash, plain trim. Painted a traditional dark green since before 1900. Blinds made of three-to-three-and-one-half-inch boards, tongue-and-groove, with bead at right. Some boards have been replaced; they are not grooved and have no bead. Two wooden cross pieces hold the boards together. Painted before 1900 the same dark green as the windows.

Doorway: Double doors, hinged at the sides, each door with three tiers of moulded panels with architrave trim. Plain moulding around the door. Painted before 1900 with the same dark green as the windows and blinds.

Chimney: Brick, corbelled, central to the building, approximately an eight-inch wide flue. Terra-cotta-type chimney liner added below stack in fall, 1933.

Roof: Original roof probably shingled; changed to a tin roof before 1900. Present tin roof dates from summer of 1934. Tin always painted black.

Basement: None, no access. Undoubtedly a crawl space.

First Floor: Single cell

Attic: No access

Flooring: Original with building, tongue-and-groove three-inch-wide hard pine. The floors were heavily oiled until the early 1950's; the school board then realized that oiling presented a fire hazard.

Ceiling and Walls: Tongue-and-groove three-inch-wide hard pine. Not painted in the early 20th century. Entire interior painted a mustard yellow in the early 1930's. "Minutes School Board July 31, 1919 to June 9, 1931," p. 297, note that G. M. Jeffries, Jr., was paid thirty dollars for painting the school in summer, 1931. The minutes did not specify if that fee included the cost of paint, or if the painting included the entire building. Paint color a cream off-white in the 1940's. Painted white with a dark green six-inch-deep band off the floor in 1978.

Trim: None, except for plain window trim and half-inch quarter-round in the four corners of the room. Window trim not painted in early twentieth century, painted the same mustard yellow as the ceiling and floors in the early 1930's. Painted a light green early in the 1940's and dark green in 1978.

Hardware: Simple. Box lock on door (not working) and butt hinges probably original. Window latches probably added in late nineteenth century.

Furnishings

Blackboard: Slate, in five panels, about three-quarters of an inch thick. In building before 1900. Paint scheme for trim follows that of windows.

Desks: One double desk with laminated top and seat and with fine iron scrollwork. Engraved "Orion 1 1887," and "PAT. DEC. 1. 85."

All desks were double desks, possibly of this type, through the 1930's.

Seven single desks, laminated top and seats, with simple iron braces, engraved "AS Co 2"; one similar desk engraved "AS Co 1"; all added ca. 1940.

Ten single desks, not laminated, modern in style, added in the 1950's.

Stoves: Pot-bellied type, about four feet high and seventy inches in circumference at widest breadth; engraved "121 OLD DOMINION PATENTED." In the school before 1900. One leg now missing.

Second stove, used in building during its last years, engraved "BOX KING No 32"; made by "J A COBS HEATER CORPORATION ATHENS - ALA."

Lights: Two single light bulbs, about eight feet from the floor, hung from a chain. They were added about 1930. Before, the teacher had a coal-oil (kerosene) lamp on her desk. The present globes are not antique, and were put on in 1978.

Lights (continued):

The exterior light above the doorway was added between 1937 and 1944. Before about 1930, there was a coal-oil lamp holder to the left (south) of the door at about shoulder height. This holder is no longer there.

Map Rack: Wooden, with roll-down maps, hung at the center of the blackboard, where the present unpainted section is. There before 1900; taken out of the school after it was closed.

Screens: Townie Ferrell made wooden screens for the school in the early 1930's. They are no longer in the building. Miss Boyde hung lace curtains in each window in the thirties.

Teacher's Desk and Utility Shelf: Both no longer in building. No unusual features in both. The waist-level utility shelf was to the left (south) of the door.

Pictures and Photographs

Bachrach photograph of elderly lady with cardboard plaque below. The plaque is labeled "MISS MARY STEER the first teacher in this school."

Picture brought to the schoolhouse in the late 1930's.

Framed Map, Loudoun County, Virginia, one inch equals one mile, four colors, "Compiled and copyrighted by Oscar L. Emerick, Superintendent of Schools, 1923." Printed by Columbia Planograph Co., Washington, D. C. Three hundred copies of this map were printed at a cost of six hundred dollars. No one remembers this map hanging in the school.

Framed lithograph entitled "OUR TWENTY-FIVE PRESIDENTS" (to "Grover Cleveland, 1885 -"), showing names, pictures, and dates of office. Engraving of U. S. Capitol in center, larger picture of George Washington above, and likeness of Miss Liberty at top center. Copyright 1884 by Buek & Lindner, New York. Brought to schoolhouse between 1937

and 1944.

Other: Small brass bell, found in the Waterford School for white children, built 1914 (earlier school built in 1875). Engraved in 1979, "SECOND STREET SCHOOL WATERFORD, VA." Miss Boyde's bell was larger than this bell.

Metal clasp or attachment about four inches long and an inch wide on the outside of the building just to the right of the door at about shoulder height. According to a photograph, this clasp was in that position in the late 1930's, but no one knows its purpose.

Sign attached to the northeast corner of the building in the late 1930's read "NO TRESPASSING IN THIS GROUND." The sign was not there in 1944.

Fences, Walk, and Outbuildings and Plantings

The portion of the fence facing Second Street and the attached forty-eight feet on each side were put up after the school closed, about 1960. The remainder of the fencing--the south stretch does not follow the original property line--was added in 1979. All fencing is wood, three-rail, and is painted white.

The stone walkway was there before 1900.

Two outhouses stood near the center of the property, at the present back fence line. They were there in 1900, and were removed about 1960. They were whitewashed. Teachers and children always called them outhouses.

A waist-high wood coal bin stood at the rear of the building. It was there in 1900, and was taken down about 1960. The bin was not painted.

All the present tree and shrub plantings are post-1958.

Additions Not in Keeping With the School's Character
Gas heater, the globes over the light bulbs, and the stark green paint for the interior trim. The green band of paint at the floor line should be removed.

However, a fire extinguisher should be added to the building--lest there be no more building.

PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation was undertaken by the School of Architecture of the University of Virginia, under the direction of K. Edward Lay, Associate Professor of Architecture. The material was prepared by Eugene M. Scheel, Graduate Student in Planning, during the Fall Semester 1979. Only the architectural data compiled by Mr. Scheel was used in this HABS report. The material was not produced under HABS supervision, nor edited by members of the HABS staff.